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SENATE BILL 1963

By Carter

AN ACT to amend Chapter 551 of the Acts of 1903; as amended by Chapter 106 of the Private Acts of 1915; Chapter 187 of the Private Acts of 1947; Chapter 251 of the Private Acts of 1961; Chapter 67 of the Private Acts of 1987; Chapter 142 of the Private Acts of 1994; Chapter 142 of the Private Acts of 1998; Chapter 143 of the Private Acts of 1998 and Chapter 148 of the Private Acts of 1998; and any other acts amendatory thereto, relative to the charter of the city of Trenton.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Chapter 551 of the Acts of 1903; as amended by Chapter 106 of the Private Acts of 1915; Chapter 187 of the Private Acts of 1947; Chapter 251 of the Private Acts of 1961; Chapter 67 of the Private Acts of 1987; Chapter 142 of the Private Acts of 1994; Chapter 142 of the Private Acts of 1998; and Chapter 148 of the Private Acts of 1998; and any other acts amendatory thereto, is revised in its entirety to read as follows:

Section 3.

(a) *Be it further enacted*, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen shall constitute the City Council. The Board of Aldermen, consisting of six (6) members, and the Mayor, shall be chosen by the qualified voters of the City to

serve for a period of four (4) years. Unless a run-off is required as provided in subsection (d), beginning with the election to be held in August 2003, and thereafter, those persons elected to office who are not in the run-off election shall take office the first Saturday of October following the election; if a run-off is required those persons elected in such run-off election shall take office on the first meeting of the City Council after the election is certified. No person shall be eligible for the office of alderman unless such person is a citizen and resident and a qualified voter in the City of Trenton when the person is chosen. If after being elected such person moves from the City, the office shall thereby become vacant. The compensation for the office of alderman of the City of Trenton shall be fixed at an amount between a range of two hundred dollars (\$200) per month and six hundred dollars (\$600) per month, which compensation shall be fixed in accordance with Section 6 of the Charter.

(b) Beginning with the September, 1999 election, the qualified voters of the City of Trenton shall elect six (6) members of the Board of Aldermen by an at-large vote.

(c) Beginning in August 2003, and every four (4) years thereafter, the election for Mayor and the Board of Aldermen shall be held on the third Saturday in August.

(d) A run-off election will be held on the fourth Saturday in September following the regular election in the event no candidate for Mayor receives a majority of the votes cast and in the event there is a tie for the sixth seat on the Board of Aldermen. "Majority" is defined as fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast plus one vote.

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Chapter 551 of the Acts of 1903, and all acts amendatory thereto, is revised in its entirety to read as follows:

SECTION 4. *Be it further enacted*, To vote in City elections, a voter shall meet the following qualifications:

(1) Must be qualified to vote for state and county officers; and

(2) Be a resident of the city, or be a bona fide owner of real estate within the City limits with an assessed value of at least fifty dollars (\$50). A voter's residence is hereby defined as the place at which the voter habitually sleeps.

SECTION 3. Section 6 of Chapter 551 of the Acts of 1903; as amended by Chapter 106 of the Private Acts of 1915; Chapter 67 of the Private Acts of 1987; and Chapter 143 of the Private Acts of 1998; and any other acts amendatory thereto, is revised in its entirety to read as follows:

Section 6. *Be it further enacted*, The City Council shall at its first meeting following the election elect a City Treasurer, who shall be a member of the Council, and such other employees as may be deemed necessary, all of which employees shall be citizens of, and voters, in said City. The City Council shall fix the compensation of such employees and prescribe their duties before their selection. At its last meeting in July, the City Council shall fix the salaries of the Mayor and the Aldermen to be chosen for the next corporate four (4) years at the next regular election, which compensation shall not be changed during their term of office. The City Council shall have power to impeach any officer, in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 47, Part 1, relative to removal of officers, or dismiss any employee for sufficient cause, two thirds (2/3) of said Council concurring.

SECTION 4. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the City Council of the City of Trenton. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the Mayor of the City of Trenton and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 5. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective as provided in Section 4.